
HOUSE BILL 1616

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Priest and Rodne

Read first time 01/24/2007. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to developing a new state funding formula for
2 student transportation; amending RCW 28A.160.170; and creating new
3 sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) In a 2006 study of state funding for
6 kindergarten through twelfth grade student transportation, the joint
7 legislative audit and review committee found that:

8 (a) Because school districts are not required to track or report
9 the costs of transporting students to and from school, there is not
10 precise information on the extent that the state funding formula for
11 student transportation covers such costs;

12 (b) There is, however, a high probability that on a statewide
13 basis, the cost of transporting students to and from school exceeds
14 state revenues for this purpose;

15 (c) Significant structural and implementation problems exist with
16 the current funding method; and

17 (d) The legislature should carefully consider how to appropriate
18 funding for student transportation before decisions are made to provide
19 additional funding to districts.

1 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to direct the office of the
2 superintendent of public instruction, in cooperation with the
3 legislative evaluation and accountability program, to develop a new
4 state funding formula for student transportation that addresses the
5 issues raised in the 2006 study.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.160.170 and 1990 c 33 s 143 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Each district shall submit to the superintendent of public
9 instruction during October of each year a report containing the
10 following:

11 ~~((1))~~(a)(i) The number of eligible students transported to and
12 from school as provided for in RCW 28A.160.150 for the current school
13 year and the number of miles estimated to be driven for pupil
14 transportation services, along with a map describing student route stop
15 locations and school locations, and ~~((b))~~ (ii) the number of miles
16 driven for pupil transportation services as authorized in RCW
17 28A.160.150 the previous school year; and

18 ~~((2))~~ (b) Other operational data and descriptions as required by
19 the superintendent to determine allocation requirements for each
20 district.

21 (2) Beginning with expenditures reported for the 2006-07 school
22 year, each district shall separate the costs of providing
23 transportation for eligible students to and from school as defined in
24 RCW 28A.160.160(3) from other transportation costs when reporting
25 expenditures for student transportation. The superintendent of public
26 instruction shall adopt rules, in consultation with the office of the
27 state auditor, that provide clear guidance for tracking and reporting
28 student transportation costs.

29 (3) Each district shall submit the information required in this
30 section on a timely basis as a condition of the continuing receipt of
31 school transportation moneys.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The superintendent of public
33 instruction, in cooperation with the legislative evaluation and
34 accountability program, shall develop and propose a new distribution
35 formula for allocating state funds for transportation costs under RCW
36 28A.160.150 through 28A.160.180.

1 (2) The distribution formula developed under this section should
2 seek to achieve the following objectives:

3 (a) More accurately reflect the costs of providing transportation
4 for eligible students to and from school based on data reported under
5 RCW 28A.160.170;

6 (b) Promote the efficient use of state and local resources; and

7 (c) Continue to allow local control of school district student
8 transportation programs, including determination of which individual
9 students are transported and by what manner and what routes are most
10 efficiently used.

11 (3) The superintendent and the legislative evaluation and
12 accountability program shall make a preliminary report on the proposed
13 distribution formula to the governor and the education and fiscal
14 committees of the legislature by September 1, 2007. A final report
15 with recommendations, estimates of the fiscal impact of the proposal on
16 the state and school districts, and draft legislation necessary to
17 implement the proposal shall be submitted by December 15, 2007.

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